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## An Update of the Ensminger Program in International Agriculture

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# An Update of the Ensminger Program in International Agriculture

## A.S. Leaflet R3039

Max F. Rothschild, Distinguished Professor, Department of Animal Science

### Summary and Implications

The Ensminger Program is a departmental effort to improve and expand activities in international animal agriculture in the Department of Animal Science and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. The program is funded by an endowment created by ME Ensminger and his wife and led by the current Ensminger Chair. This program has several purposes and includes in collaboration with international scientists, development of schools/conferences in locations around the world, improving training and collaboration of foreign scientists and improved education and opportunities for Iowa State University undergraduates and graduate students with interests in international animal agriculture. A recent successful school was held in Lima, Peru in 2014.

### Introduction

The Ensminger program is organized by the M.E. Ensminger Chair with consultation by the Chair of the Department of Animal Science. Dr. Max Rothschild was appointed Ensminger Chair in 2007. The previous Ensminger Chair was Dr. David Topel. The Ensminger Chair works with faculty and students to optimize activities and opportunities in the department and with scientists around the world to develop international schools and conferences.

### Activities

Several activities are underway and can be viewed at <http://www.ans.iastate.edu/section/Ensminger/>. These activities include the following: 1) International Ensminger schools (see Lima school discussion); 2) Ensminger visiting fellows/scientists; 3) Sponsored seminars; 4) Travel and international activities in other countries and 5) Development, revision and teaching of the AnS441X class in international animal agriculture.

*Lima Peru Ensminger School* was recently held and was a great success. The school was November 1-7, 2014 and was co-sponsored by La Molina University. The title was "Advances in Animal Production in Latin America". There were over 230 attendees and the 11 speakers on the subjects of genetic improvement, reproduction, animal welfare, nutrition and issues related policy and technology transfer. Of the 11 speakers, 7 faculty were from Iowa State University and the others were from the University of

British Columbia, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota and Universidade Federal de Vicosa. Prior to the meetings the speakers toured around Lima and learned about the history of Peru and about animal agriculture of Peru and the surrounding countries. Future collaborations with ISU faculty are expected to come from this successful event.

*Ensminger visiting scientists* are visitors that come and work in the department and seek some assistance from the Ensminger program. To date we have had several visitors from the following countries: Uganda (1); South Africa (1); Italy (1); Korea (2), Spain (2) and the Philippines (3). These people come for several months or up to a couple of years. Projects have included training in molecular biology, quantitative genetics, meat science and animal science. One visitor from Uganda is a graduate student doing a PhD and will be working on ideas to develop livestock production in Uganda to help family sustainability.

*Seminars* include sponsoring experts to come to Iowa State University. The program has supported for five years a series of seminars called "Feeding the World are we making progress". These seminars give ISU students, staff and faculty opportunities to meet and hear interesting topics.

*Travel and International Activities* have included considerable activities in Uganda in the Center for Sustainable Livelihoods and can be seen at <http://www.srl.ag.iastate.edu/work/livestock/>. Other activities have included speaking in Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Korea, Kenya, Peru, Uganda, U.K. Vietnam and other places. Other faculty have been partly supported to travel with student trips.

*An International Animal Agriculture course* called An Sci 441 "International Animal Science" has been taught for two years and will be taught Spring 2015. The course covers differences in animal agriculture around the world and covers issues like sustainability, food production and environmental issues.

### Opportunities for the Future

The world is becoming a smaller place. The purpose of this program is to expand those activities and to help faculty and students fund and participate more internationally. All interested parties are encouraged to visit with the Chair to discuss their ideas. Sponsorship of activities both at ISU and international are open to consideration.

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Pictures from the recent meeting in Lima.

